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Miss Gertrude Brown
Dup.

BULLETIN

OF THE
RHODE ISLAND LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

VOL. 6.

OCTOBER, 1933

No. 3



FALL MEETING OF THE RHODE ISLAND LIBRARY ASSOCIATION.
FRIDAY, OCTOBER 27, 1933.

MORNING SESSION.
ELMWOOD PUBLIC LIBRARY,
275 Elmwood Ave., Providence
10:00 A. M.

Business Meeting.

Recent Trends in Modern Art.

Royal B. Farnum, Educational Director, Rhode Island School of Design.

The Spoils System and the Public Services.

Edward T. Hartman, State Consultant. Division of Housing and Town Planning, Boston.

ADJOURNMENT 12:00

AFTERNOON SESSION.
CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL LIBRARY
Pond Street, Providence.
2:15 P. M.

The Function of the Elementary School Library.

Catherine F. O'Donnell, Librarian. Kenyon Street Elementary School, Providence.

The Problem of Book Loss and Mutilation.

C. Lucy Newell, Librarian. Samuel W. Bridgham Junior High School, Providence.

The Senior High School Library.

Evelyn L. Truesdale, Librarian. Senior High School, Pawtucket.

(The above program is contributed by the Rhode Island School Library Association.)

The Problem of Present-Day Leisure.

O. T. Gilmore, Director. Leisure Time Activities.

ADJOURNMENT 4:00 P. M.

BULLETIN
OF THE
RHODE ISLAND LIBRARY ASSOCIATION.

Published every now and then,
and designed to be of interest
to librarians of Rhode Island.

R. I. L. A. BULLETIN COMMITTEE

JOSEPHINE A. HOPE,
PROVIDENCE PUBLIC LIBRARY
ANNISE KANE,
CLASSICAL HIGH SCHOOL, PROVIDENCE
MRS. DOROTHY H. HELLEN,
ELMWOOD PUBLIC LIBRARY, PROVIDENCE

Vol. 6. October, 1933. No. 3

RHODE ISLAND NOVELS.

(WHICH HAVE APPEARED WITHIN THE LAST
TWO YEARS)

THE BIRTHDAY, BY SAMUEL ROGERS

This novel has a Providence and Matunuck setting, 1914-1929. The lives of Katherine Wilder, Albert, the man whom she marries, Gabriel the musician, whom Katherine has always loved and understood, are completely analyzed in a more than usually comprehensible "stream of consciousness" novel. It is a clever and sensitive piece of work.

**THE STRANGE ADVENTURES OF JONATHAN DREW,
ROLLING STONE, BY CHRISTOPHER WARD**

Not an all Rhode Island novel, but it seems worth while to include it because one of the incidents takes place in Providence. This is an engaging picaresque, or rogue, novel of a New England highwayman of the early nineteenth century, who once carried on a crooked horse-selling project at an inn on South Main Street. He was, successively, highwayman, coachman, peddler, manservant, farmer, actor. The author has done extensive reading and research in order that he might paint in his background vividly and accurately.

THE STORY OF SILAS WOODWARD,

BY ELIZABETH THOMAS

The setting is the vicinity of Sakonnet. The finest thing about this novel is the author's feeling and sense for things and people of New England and Rhode Island, and her love of country, woods and seashore. The hero is a futile individual, who does not know what he wants. His only redeeming characteristic is that he loves the out-of-doors and is never more content than when he is wandering off into the fields and woods.

SING BEFORE BREAKFAST, BY VINCENT MCHUGH

Here is a novel with a Block Island setting. It is the story of an artist who had sold nothing, and of his wife, a practical Cape Codder who cannot understand art, and cannot reconcile herself to poverty. She can-

not stand living in a shack on Block Island, nor can she exist without her husband. A sword fisherman and a summer boarder complicate the plot. The author is a Providence man who used, in his student days, to work at the Providence Public Library. This is his second novel, the first one being "Touch me not," with a Rocky Point setting.

FROM HERE AND THERE.

The Auburn Public Library reports that a play is to be given by the Cranston Playhouse this fall, for the benefit of the library.

The following appointments and changes have been made at the John Hay Library:

Miss Eleanor C. Leonard, Brown '28 and North Carolina University Library School '32, has been transferred from the Cataloguing Department to her old position as first assistant in the Circulation Department.

Mr. Richard S. Currier, Harvard '32, has been appointed as an assistant in the Circulation Department.

Mr. Norman L. Kilpatrick, Brown '28, has been transferred to the Circulation Department to be assistant to the Librarian.

The following are attending the A. L. A. Conference in Chicago: Dr. and Mrs. Van Hoesen, Professor S. Foster Damon, Miss Esther C. Cushman, and Miss Mary A. McIlwain.

As in the summer of 1932, so also during the last summer, the Deborah Cook Sayles Public Library was closed from July 31 through Labor Day, five weeks, in the interests of economy. During this closed period a basement reading room was opened where the library patrons could read the daily newspapers and the current magazines. It was put to good use. Each reader was allowed to take out four books for the summer.

The Greenville Public Library tells of an increase of 767 circulation over last year, which makes it desirable for the library to keep open two days a week instead of only one.

The Jamestown Philomenian Library reports a prosperous summer, with greatly increased circulation. A large bridge party, sponsored by the summer colony, netted the library \$100, and the garden club and the services of the unemployed have done much to improve the building and its surroundings.

The Kingston Free Library also reports a considerable increase in circulation.

The Langworthy Public Library, at Hopkinton, reports a progress on its new library building; also an increased circulation.

In spite of the fact that the Little Compton Library is in a small community where there is also another library, and even with a much reduced income, it has been able to show an increase of about four hundred in its circulation.

We hear from the Manton Free Library that its circulation has increased 1682 over the year before, and that Miss Katherine Metcalf has donated a collection of 38 books for boys and girls to the library.

The librarian of the North Tiverton Public Library seems to feel that a ray of hope is stealing into conditions, for she finds a considerable improvement in the promptness with which the library patrons pay their overdue charges.

The Pascoag Public Library had an increase of 1015 over its circulation of last year.

Another excellent increase is reported from the People's Library, Newport, 7,783, 584 of which is juvenile.

The Portsmouth Free Public Library has been fortunate in having a goodly number of books and magazines donated to both its adult and its juvenile collection.

The Providence Public Library announces the following staff changes:

Miss Alice Hathaway has succeeded Miss Ruth Shattuck who resigned as Director of Circulation last spring. Miss Hathaway, formerly Librarian of the Tockwotten Branch, has been succeeded there by Miss Anne Handley.

Miss Alice Walker has succeeded Mrs. Vaughan (formerly Miss Eleanor Hanson) at the Nathan Bishop Junior High School Library.

Miss Mildred L. Jenckes, formerly assistant at the Samuel W. Bridgham School, has been transferred to Esek Hopkins.

Miss Louise V. Conway, Simmons, 1933, has been appointed Acting Children's Librarian at the Sprague House Branch.

Due to a 10% cut in the city appropriation, it has been necessary for the library to retrench immediately on some of its services. There will be a reduction in the book appropriation and Nathaniel Green Junior High School Library will not be opened to the public as formerly, since its neighborhood is also well served by the Smith Hill Branch. Other changes will be announced later.

The Redwood Library and Athenaeum, Newport, believes that it is now striking a balance after its very large increases in circulation for the last five years. Although the circulation has, on this account, slightly decreased in the last year, there has been no decrease in the number of subscribers. An interesting exhibit of old maps and prints of Newport and vicinity have been loaned to the library by Dr. Roderick Terry.

At the Rhode Island State College Library, Margaret Ridlon Van Ingen has been appointed librarian and Hannah Alida Birch, Curator of Libraries, with Hortense A. Anderson, Simmons, 1933, as Assistant.

The Robert Beverly Hale Library, Matunuck, announces a series of talks, the first of which was held on Saturday, September 30, at 3 o'clock. The speaker was Mr. Carder Whaley of Wakefield, and his subject, "An old map of South Kingstown." The map in question is a copy of an old map of South Kingstown, published in 1857 and recently published, with additions, by Mr. Whaley, assisted by Mr. A. T. Taylor of Wakefield. Following the talk, tea was served in the Children's Room.

A benefit dance has been given for the library, the proceeds from which amounted to over \$200. This library reports that it has been little effected by the depression.

The Valley Falls Free Library reports a cut of over fifty percent from the town and a 1400 increase in circulation over last year.

The Watchemoket Library, East Providence, also tells of an increase of 2000.

As for the Westerly Public Library, at the end of their library year, in August, statistics showed that they had the largest circulation in their history, 225,227, amounting to thirteen books per capita, even though the circulation has decreased somewhat since May.

Two other libraries report extremely satisfactory increases; the Willett Free Library, Saunderson, a 1000 increase, and the William H. Hall Free Library, Edgewood, 4000. Miss Alice W. Morse, the Librarian of the latter library, has just returned after a long illness.

BOOKS OFFERED FREE.

The Providence Public Library has been discarding a considerable number of books that would be useful to other libraries. Several Rhode Island libraries have already made selections from

them. These books may be examined in the stack of the Tockwotten Branch on Hope Street—hours, 3-9 P. M., daily; Saturdays, 9 A. M. — 9 P. M.

YOUNG, BUT PROSPEROUS.

SENIORS.

Central Falls High School Library
Cranston High School Library
East Providence Senior High School Library
George H. Norman Library
Rogers High School Library, Newport
Pawtucket Senior High School Library
Providence:
Classical High School Library
David W. Hoyt Library, Central High School
George F. Weston Library, Central High School
Hope Street High School Library
Westerly High School Library
Woonsocket High School Library

JUNIORS.

Pawtucket:
Joseph Jenks Junior High School Library
Lyman B. Goff Junior High School Library
Samuel Slater Junior High School Library
Providence:
Esek Hopkins Junior High School Library
George J. West Junior High School Library
Gilbert Stuart Junior High School Library
Nathan Bishop Junior High School Library
Nathanael Greene Junior High School Library
Oliver Hazard Perry Junior High School Library
Roger Williams Junior High School Library
Samuel W. Bridgman Junior High School Library
Riverside Junior High School Library
Woonsocket Junior High School Library

We may obtain a little idea of the sort of work that some of the high school libraries, Junior and Senior, are doing from some of the following reports:

The librarian of Cranston High School Library reports that her library circle of 20 students, who assist with printing, mending and the more mechanical parts of the desk work, are to teach the entering classes about the care of books, their structure and their history. The use of catalogue cards is taught by lantern slides, followed by problem lesson in the library. Supplementary lectures have been given to various classes outside of the regular lessons, too, on books of various classes, England, Stratford, etc.

The George H. Norman Library of the Rogers High School, Newport, reports that unusually intelligent work is being done by the Library Auxiliary of junior and senior girls. Also, there has been a gratifying increase in the use of library books in connection with school work.

The Senior High School Library of East Providence has an annual called "The Bookworm." It was listed in the A. L. A. Bulletin for August, 1933, and contains records of the activities of the

Library Auxiliary, book lists, book reviews and literary compositions, usually by the members of the auxiliary. The work of this library has also been written up in the "Library Journal" for November 15, 1932, in which an account is given of the librarian's scheme for Library Honor Reading and of the Library Auxiliary activities.

The Librarian at the Pawtucket High School tells of the Library having charge of two assemblies at which scenes from well known books were given in pantomime. Supplementary reading lists were compiled by members of the English department and printed in the school by the students.

The librarian of the David W. Hoyt Library at Central High School, Providence, mentions the elective course in Library Science given by the librarian. Those who complete the course receive credit equivalent to any elective course offered in the school.

The librarian at the Hope Street High School, Providence, says that she has received no money from the school system to run the library for three years. But she considers this a challenge, to supplement "her zero income with all kinds of makeshifts." Somehow, she says, she is able to meet practically all the needs of the students.

In the junior high school libraries, too, library science is taught. The report from the librarian of the Joseph Jenks High School, Pawtucket, gives an idea of the way they carry on this work there. Library Science is taught in the seventh and eighth grades, so that each of the pupils have thirty-eight lessons. The course is based on Rice's "Lessons on the use of books and libraries." These two grades have library reading periods, sometimes conducted by a teacher. This arrangement eliminates the circulation of the books.

All the junior high schools of Providence, with one exception, are run co-operatively by the Providence Public Library and the city. The exception is the library of the Gilbert Stuart Junior High School, which is run on a similar agreement between the Elmwood Public Library and the city. All of these libraries serve both the community and the school, except for the George J. West, the Nathanael Greene and the Roger Williams Schools. In the case of the last, the registration is simplified and the pupils are encouraged to read more widely by allowing them to use their library cards at the school and at the branch library nearest to them.